

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Please silence and refrain from using all electronic devices.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

OPENING VOLUNTARY “Sleepers Wake! A Voice Is Calling by J. S. Bach Cary Castellaw
Acolyte: Savannah Sewell

PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

Beadle: Terry Holmes

Please use this time for silent meditation and preparation for worship. Prayer cards are in the pew rack in front of you for submission to the church prayer list.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**Those who are able, please stand.*

*CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

*O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Bill & Terry Holmes

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 146)

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

All: We will praise the Lord as long as we live; we will sing praises to our God all our life long.

Leader: Happy are we whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord our God.

All: The Lord will reign forever, our God, for all generations!

All: Praise the Lord!

*HYMN OF PRAISE #183 “Once in Royal David’s City”

*BIDDING PRAYER (unison)

Gracious God, you are welcome in our midst today. Forgive us, cleanse us, and open our hearts that we may worship you fully and joyfully. Amen.

MINISTRY OF GIVING “O Little Town of Bethlehem” by David Lowe

*DOXOLOGY

Old 100th

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.*

LESSONS AND CAROLS

LESSON 1: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Reader: Doug Richardson

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

CAROL #191 “It Came Upon The Midnight Clear”

LESSON 2: Isaiah 11:1-4A, 6-9

Reader: Jim Beisner

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

ANTHEM “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” by Michael Praetorius

LESSON 3: Luke 1:26-38

Reader: Stephanie Dunn

The angel Gabriel salutes the blessed Virgin Mary.

SOLO “The Virgin’s Slumber Song” by Max Reger

Laura Richardson, Soprano

LESSON 4: Luke 2:1-7

Reader: Annie Laura Kelly

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

ANTHEM “While by My Sheep” by Hugo Jungst

LESSON 5: Luke 2:8-20

Reader: Terry Holmes

The shepherds go to the manger.

ANTHEM “What Is This Lovely Fragrance?” by Hal Hopson

LESSON 6: Matthew 2:1-12

Reader: Jeffrey Cochran

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

*CAROL #233 “We Three Kings”

LESSON 7: John 1:1-14

Reader: Rev. Susan Bennett

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

ANTHEM “Gloria, Alleluia” by G. F. Handel

Arlene Lathrop, Oboe

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #188 “Angels, We Have Heard On High”

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Cary Castellaw

“Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending” by Thomas Olivers





The Festival of Lessons and Carols was first held on Christmas Eve 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who at the age of thirty-four had just been appointed Dean of King's, after experience as an army chaplain which had convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. A revision of the Order of Service was made in 1919, involving rearrangement of the lessons.

The service was first broadcast in 1928 and, with the exception of 1930, has been broadcast annually, even during the Second World War, when the ancient glass (and also all heat) had been removed from the Chapel. Sometime in the early 1930's the BBC began broadcasting the service on the World Service. It is estimated that there are millions of listeners worldwide. Since 1963, a shorter service, which uses different music and readings, has been filmed periodically for television.



This year, Stockbridge Presbyterian Church commissioned original Advent drawings from local artist, Collin Roberts. Please enjoy this special artwork as a gift.

WELCOME VISITOR! We are delighted that you are here to share worship of our Lord Jesus this morning together with the rest of us. We want you to be well informed about our Christian faith and about our church so don't be afraid to ask. You may communicate with us in several ways. Ask a neighbor in your pew, fill out a blue first-time visitor card, add your name to the Ritual of Friendship pad and by all means do not hesitate to contact our pastor. May God bless you this morning and throughout the week.

Rev. Susan Bennett, Pastor
Cary Castellaw, Interim Music Director
Stephanie Dunn, Youth Director
Mary Thompson, Christian Ed Coordinator

Levena Hemmle, Office Manager
Tom Francis, Custodian
Nursery Attendants: Stephanie Phillips and Abigail Jenkins

Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

**Third Sunday of Advent
December 16, 2012
11:00 A.M.**

